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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
**WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Notice of Adopted Amendment to the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan Establishing the 2012 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Waters

**Public Notice**

**Take Notice** that an amendment to the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan was adopted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) pursuant to the Water Quality Management Planning rules at N.J.A.C. 7:15-6.2 and the Water Quality Planning Act at N.J.S.A. 58:11A-7. This adopted amendment establishes New Jersey's 2012 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Waters (303(d) List), which is now part of the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan and replaces the 2010 303(d) List. The adopted amendment also establishes the Department's two-year schedule for development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for high priority waters on the 2012 303(d) List. The adoption of the 2012 303(d) List and two-year TMDL schedule satisfies New Jersey's requirements under Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C.1313(d)).

States are required pursuant to Section 305(b) of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. 1315(b) to biennially prepare and submit to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) a report addressing the overall water quality of the State's waters, including support of designated uses, and strategies to maintain and improve water quality. This report is known as the Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (Integrated Report). The Integrated Report identifies where regulatory and other actions have been successful in restoring water quality, where water quality improvement is needed, where high quality waters are threatened and/or need protection, and where further study and/or research is needed to address unresolved water quality issues, such as nutrient impacts on aquatic life uses. These results provide a sound scientific foundation to inform and prioritize the State's water regulatory and

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management programs. This state scale water quality information is required by the Clean Water Act to develop the overall national scale assessment of water quality.

As part of this report, States are required to develop a list of waters that currently do not meet, or are not expected to meet, applicable water quality standards after the implementation of technology-based controls. This list is known as the 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Waters or “303(d) List”. The 303(d) List includes a priority ranking for scheduling total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), as well identifying TMDLs expected to be completed in the next two years. The reporting requirements under CWA Sections 305(b) and 303(d) were integrated under USEPA guidance in 2002 and both reports have been integrated into the New Jersey Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (Integrated Report); however, only the 303(d) List is subject to public review and comment.

The Department developed the 2012 Integrated Report based on all readily available data for the reporting period January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2010, including data from a variety of entities in response to the Department’s notice of solicitation published on April 4, 2011 (see 43 N.J.R. 887(a)). The scientific protocols and methods used to assess water quality for the 2012 303(d) List are explained in the Department’s 2012 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Methods (Methods Document). The draft 2012 Methods Document was published for public review and comment on December 5, 2011 (see 43 N.J.R. 887(a)). After considering the public comment received on the draft 2012 Methods Document, the Department finalized the 2012 Methods Document. A summary of the comments received on the revised draft 2012 Methods Document and agency responses is included as an Appendix in the Final 2012 Methods Document. The Final 2012 Methods Document is included in the Appendix of the 2012 Integrated Report.

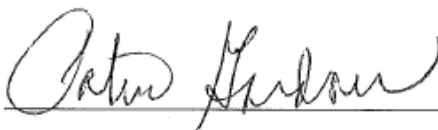
The Department published the draft 2012 303(d) List in the July 2, 2012 New Jersey Register (see 44 N.J.R. 1918(b)) and on the Department’s Web site at [http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bwqsa/2012\\_integrated\\_report.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bwqsa/2012_integrated_report.htm) as a proposed amendment to the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan. The public comment period ended on August 1, 2012. Seventy-eight comments were received from ten entities, including USEPA Region 2. The

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Department revised the 2012 303(d) List based on careful consideration of the comments received and submitted the final 2012 303(d) List on July 30, 2014 for USEPA approval. USEPA approved the final 2012 303(d) List on September 25, 2014.

The 2012 Integrated Report, including the final 2012 303(d) List and Agency Response to Comments, is available on the Department's Web site at [http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bwqsa/2012\\_integrated\\_report.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bwqsa/2012_integrated_report.htm) and may also be obtained from the Bureau of Environmental Analysis, Restoration and Standards at P.O. Box 420 (Mail Code 401 - 041), Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420 or by calling (609) 633-1441.

Date 10/9/14



Patricia Gardner

Director

Division of Water Monitoring and Standards